

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FISH AND GAME COMMISSION
INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR REGULATORY ACTION
(Pre-Publication of Notice Statement)

Amend Sections 478.1, 551, 601 and 708
Title 14, California Code of Regulations

Re: Bobcat Hunting Tags; Hunting, Firearms, and Archery Equipment Use and Permit Requirements on
State and Federal Areas; Cooperative Deer Hunting Areas; Cooperative Elk Hunting Areas;
Enhancement and Management of Fish and Wildlife and their Habitat on
Private Lands; and
Big Game License Tag, Application, Distribution and Reporting Procedures

Add Section 702
Title 14, California Code of Regulations
Re: Hunting Applications, Tags, Seals, Permits, Reservations and Fees

- I. Date of Initial Statement of Reasons: July 8, 2005
- II. Dates and Locations of Scheduled Hearings:
- (a) Notice Hearing: Date: August 19, 2005
Location: San Luis Obispo, California
- (b) Discussion/Adoption Hearing: Date: November 4, 2005
Location: Santa Barbara, California
- III. Description of Regulatory Action:
- (a) Statement of Specific Purpose of Regulation Change and Factual Basis for Determining that Regulation Change is Reasonably Necessary:
- Update and Consolidate Hunting Fees to New Section in Title 14.
- Existing regulations reference the fees for applications, licenses, permits, tags, reservations and other entitlements in various sections of Title 14. Pursuant to Section 713 of the Fish and Game Code, these fees are adjusted annually based on a calculated cost-of-living adjustment. This requires the Department to identify each section that contains a fee and take regulatory action to update the fees to ensure the regulations accurately reflect the correct fees. The proposed changes would remove references of fees from existing sections, consolidate them into one hunting fees section, and update the fees as required by Section 713. This will streamline the process for the Department and Commission staff and will simplify the regulations for the public.
- (b) Authority and Reference Sections from Fish and Game Code for Regulation:
- Authority: Sections 200, 202, 215, 219, 220, 713, 1050, 7380 and 10502, Fish and Game Code.
- Reference: Sections 200-203.1, 207, 210, 215, 219, 220, 713, 1050, 7380, 10500 and 10502, Fish and Game Code.

(c) Specific Technology or Equipment Required by Regulatory Change:

None.

(d) Identification of Reports or Documents Supporting Regulation Change:

None.

(e) Public Discussions of Proposed Regulations Prior to Notice Publication:

None.

IV. Description of Reasonable Alternatives to Regulatory Action:

(a) Alternatives to Regulation Change:

There is no reasonable alternative to the proposed action.

(b) No Change Alternative:

The no change alternative was considered and found inadequate to attain the project objectives. Retaining the fees in existing sections creates additional work for Department and Commission staff to identify and update each section annually to ensure the fees are accurate. If the fees are not consolidated into a dedicated section in regulation some fees may not be updated annually resulting in inaccurate fees listed in regulations, potentially leading to confusion for the public.

(c) Consideration of Alternatives:

In view of information currently possessed, no reasonable alternative considered would be more effective in carrying out the purposes for which the regulation is proposed or would be as effective and less burdensome to the affected private persons than the proposed regulation.

V. Mitigation Measures Required by Regulatory Action:

The proposed regulatory action will have no negative impact on the environment; therefore, no mitigation measures are needed.

VI. Impact of Regulatory Action:

The potential for significant statewide adverse economic impacts that might result from the proposed regulatory action has been assessed, and following initial determinations relative to the required statutory categories have been made.

(a) Significant Statewide Adverse Economic Impact Directly Affecting Businesses, Including the Ability of California Businessmen to Compete with Businesses in Other States:

The proposed action will not have a significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states. The proposed action consolidates the fees relating to hunting tags and applications within the regulation, adjusts fees pursuant to Section 713, and is economically neutral to businesses.

- (b) Impact on the Creation or Elimination of Jobs Within the State, the Creation of New Businesses or the Elimination of Existing Businesses, or the Expansion of Businesses in California:

None.

- (c) Cost Impacts on Private Persons:

The agency is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action.

- (d) Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Costs/Savings in Federal Funding to the State:

None.

- (e) Other Nondiscretionary Costs/Savings to Local Agencies:

None.

- (f) Programs Mandated on Local Agencies or School Districts:

None.

- (g) Costs Imposed on Any Local Agency or School District that is Required to be Reimbursed under Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4:

None.

- (h) Effect on Housing Costs:

None.

INFORMATIVE DIGEST
(Policy Statement Overview)

Existing regulations reference the fees for applications, licenses, permits, tags, reservations and other entitlements in various sections of Title 14. Pursuant to Section 713 of the Fish and Game Code, these fees are adjusted annually based on a calculated cost-of-living adjustment. This requires the Department to identify each section that contains a fee and take regulatory action to update the fees to ensure the regulations accurately reflect the correct fees. The proposed changes would remove references of fees from existing sections, consolidate them into one hunting fees section, and update the fees as required by Section 713. This will streamline the process for the Department and Commission staff and will simplify the regulations for the public.

Editorial changes are also proposed to improve the clarity and consistency of the regulations.

The changes proposed are for the 2006/2007 license year and shall become effective on July 1, 2006. Applications are in draft and will not be finalized and printed until April 2006.